

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Koji IKEDA and Kazuyoshi SHIBATA

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: PIEZOELECTRIC/ELECTROSTRICTIVE DEVICE AND METHOD OF  
PRODUCING THE SAME

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 addressed to Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 14, 2002 under "EXPRESS MAIL" mailing label number EL872579626US.

*Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp*  
Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp

Box Patent Application  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend the subject application as follows:

In the Specification:

After the title and before the first line, please insert the following paragraph:

--This application claims priority from Japanese Application 2001-10622 filed January 18, 2001 and Japanese Application 2001-76314, filed March 16, 2001, the entireties of which are incorporated herein by reference.--

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 9-17 and 25 as follows:

9. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, wherein a connecting portion between a base part of said movable parts and the side peripheries of said fixing part constituting said base has a circular arc shape.

10. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 3, wherein a connecting portion between a base part of said movable parts and the side peripheries of said fixing part and said mounting part constituting said base has a circular arc shape.

11. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, wherein a central portion, as viewed in a length direction, of said movable parts constituting said base is formed to have a smaller thickness than other portions of said movable parts.

12. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, wherein said movable parts constituting said base have a reinforcing part located at an end thereof on said fixing part side and bent from an upper edge of said end to extend towards and abut against a surface of said fixing part.

13. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, wherein said movable parts constituting said base have a reinforcing part located at an end thereof on said fixing part side and bent from a front edge of said end to extend towards an inner side and abut against a surface of said fixing part.

14. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, wherein a reinforcing member intervenes between said movable parts on said fixing part constituting said base.

15. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, wherein said fixing part constituting said base extends from the one end side of said movable parts and is enlarged as compared with a case of being located within said movable parts.

16. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 3, wherein said mounting part constituting said base extends from the other end side of said movable parts and is enlarged as compared with a case of being located within said movable parts.

17. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, wherein said base is constructed with a flat plate made of metal.

25. (Amended) The method of producing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 18, wherein an opening of said stamped structure is formed by stamping simultaneously with stamping said flat plate or formed by a hole-forming process after stamping said flat plate.

**REMARKS**

Prior to examination, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment in which the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities.

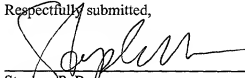
Claims 1-25 are pending herein. Applicants have amended the claims to eliminate multiple dependent claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants believe the case is now in condition for examination.

Attached hereto as pages 4 and 5 is a marked-up version of the changes made to claim 9-17 and 25 by the current Amendment. The attached pages are captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicant's attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call applicant's attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen P. Burr  
Reg. No. 32,970

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

SPB/cav

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the Claims:**

**Claims 9-17 and 25 have been amended as follows:**

9. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a connecting portion between a base part of said movable parts and the side peripheries of said fixing part constituting said base has a circular arc shape.

10. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 3, ~~4, 5, 6, 7, or 8~~; wherein a connecting portion between a base part of said movable parts and the side peripheries of said fixing part and said mounting part constituting said base has a circular arc shape.

11. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8~~; wherein a central portion, as viewed in a length direction, of said movable parts constituting said base is formed to have a smaller thickness than other portions of said movable parts.

12. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8~~; wherein said movable parts constituting said base ~~has~~have a reinforcing part located at an end thereof on said fixing part side and bent from an upper edge of said end to extend towards and abut against a surface of said fixing part. ✓

13. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8~~; wherein said movable parts constituting said base ~~has~~have a reinforcing part located at an end thereof on said fixing part side and bent from a front edge of said end to extend towards an inner side and abut against a surface of said fixing part. ✓

14. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8~~; wherein a reinforcing member intervenes between said movable parts on said fixing part constituting said base.

15. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8~~; wherein said fixing part constituting said base extends from the one end side of said movable parts and is enlarged as compared with a case of being located within said movable parts.

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

16. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 3, ~~4, 5, 6, 7, 8~~, wherein said mounting part constituting said base extends from the other end side of said movable parts and is enlarged as compared with a case of being located within said movable parts.

17. (Amended) The piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8~~, wherein said base is constructed with a flat plate made of metal.

25. (Amended) The method of producing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 18, ~~19, 20, 21, 22, 23, or 24~~, wherein an opening of said stamped structure is formed by stamping simultaneously with stamping said flat plate or formed by a hole-forming process after stamping said flat plate.

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